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STATE DOCUMENTS

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MONTANA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

1956

TO

HONORABLE J. HUGO ARONSON

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STATE OF MONTANA

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HAVRE
H. L. CUMMINGS, VICE-CHAIRMAN
BILLINGS
MAC JOHNSON, SECRETARY
CUT BANK

MEMBERS:
CHARLES A. LYNCH
BILLINGS
ALFRED F. KLINGLER
SHELBY
STANLEY NEES
POPLAR
E. B. COGSWELL
GREAT FALLS
DIRECTOR:
FRANK W. WILEY

AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 1698
HELENA, MONTANA

January 1, 1957

Honorable J. Hugo Aronson
Governor of the State of Montana
Capitol Building
Helena, Montana

Dear Governor Aronson:

Your attention is invited to the annual report of the Montana Aeronautics Commission for 1956 herewith submitted.

Respectfully,

Gordon C. Sands

Gordon C. Sands, Chairman

Mac Johnson

Mac Johnson, Secretary

Incl.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ANNUAL REPORT

MONTANA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

	Page
Letter of Transmittal	1
Montana Aeronautics Commission	3
Activities	4
Aeronautical Chart	5
Local Service Airline Pattern	6
Facilities	7
Agricultural Aviation	7
Montana Airport Development	8
Comment	8
Financial Statement	9

MONTANA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS

1956 January to June	Date Termination of Appointment
Charles A. Lynch, Billings, Chairman	June 23, 1959
Gordon C. Sands, Havre, Vice-Chairman	June 23, 1957
Alfred F. Klingler, Shelby, Secretary	June 23, 1957
H. L. Cummings, Billings	June 23, 1957
Stanley Nees, Poplar	June 23, 1957
Mac Johnson, Cut Bank	June 23, 1959

1956 July to January	
Gordon C. Sands, Havre, Chairman	June 23, 1957
H. L. Cummings, Billings, Vice-Chairman	June 23, 1957
Mac Johnson, Cut Bank, Secretary	June 23, 1959
Alfred F. Klingler, Shelby	June 23, 1957
Stanley Nees, Poplar	June 23, 1957
Charles A. Lynch, Billings	June 23, 1959
E. B. Cogswell, Great Falls	June 23, 1957

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I.
MONTANA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION
1956

The Montana Aeronautics Commission was created by the 1945 Legislature and is charged with the responsibility of the administration and promotion of aeronautics within and for the State of Montana.

Reference: Codes of Montana, 1947, Sec. 1-203. "THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE SUPERVISION OVER AERONAUTICS WITHIN THIS STATE. IT IS EMPOWERED AND DIRECTED TO ENCOURAGE, FOSTER, AND ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AERONAUTICS IN THIS STATE AND TO ENCOURAGE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AIRPORTS AND OTHER AIR NAVIGATION FACILITIES."

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE AVIATION OFFICIALS

The Montana Aeronautics Commission is a member of the National Association of State Aviation Officials, the purpose of which is: "TO FOSTER AVIATION AS AN INDUSTRY, AS A MODE OF TRANSPORTATION FOR PERSONS AND PROPERTY AND AS AN ARM OF NATIONAL DEFENSE; TO JOIN WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER GROUPS IN RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ADVANCEMENT OF AVIATION; TO DEVELOP UNIFORM AVIATION LAWS AND REGULATIONS; AND TO OTHERWISE ENCOURAGE COOPERATION AND MUTUAL AID AMONG THE SEVERAL STATES."

II.
ACTIVITIES

1. The commission maintains files of registered pilots, certificated aircraft, crop spraying aircraft, and crop spraying pilots.

2. A current aeronautics chart of Montana is edited and produced by the commission.

3. A monthly Newsletter is published and distributed to all registered pilots.

4. The commission is the state approving agency for federal aid airport projects.

5. The commission is the state approving agency for the veterans flight training programs and prepared the flight school curriculums for programs under Public Law 346 and Public Law 550.

6. The commission carries out enforcement action in supporting aviation laws and the laws and regulations of the Civil Aeronautics Board and the Civil Aeronautics Administration. Enforcement policy is pointed to action only on violations pertaining to registration and "flying in a manner dangerous to persons and property."

7. The commission works with other state agencies in sponsoring educational clinics and workshops on aviation education by integrating into existing subjects, the Civil Air Patrol education program and agricultural aviation.

8. The commission has assisted Montana cities in presenting applications to the Civil Aeronautics Board for airline service and is actively supporting the development of a local service airline pattern for Montana.

9. The commission has produced a 16mm motion picture on Montana aviation, in color and sound, 18 minutes in length, at a cost of $10,000. Forty-two copies of this picture are in circulation.

ACTIVITIES
(Continued)

10. A major commission program was the organization and administration of search and rescue developed on a uniform plan with the aeronautics departments of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. The Montana Aeronautics Commission search and rescue organization participates in an average of 33 search and rescue incidents per year.

11. The search and rescue organization has been incorporated into the State Civil Defense Plan and the director of the commission is also the director for civil defense aviation.

12. The commission has actively supported and initiated several landing strip projects including one landing strip built on the Canadian border at a port-of-entry for both United States and Canadian customs. This border strip is on common ground of both countries and the project was supported by the International Border Commission, the state of Montana, and the province of Saskatchewan.

III.
AERONAUTICAL CHART

The Montana Aeronautics Commission published a 1957 revision of the state aeronautical chart. This new chart included current information on airport facilities together with revisions of federal airway facilities and diagrams on runways of major airports in Montana. It is considered that the Montana Aeronautics Commission chart is one of the best of the aviation charts produced in the country and this chart is a material contribution by the commission to Montana aviation needs.

IV.
LOCAL SERVICE AIRLINE PATTERN

The economic need and the interest in airline service to Montana communities has changed within the last year with the result that we have four airlines competing for the privilege of serving Montana communities. In the past we have had a condition in which we were trying to get any airline to serve Montana communities and now we have an encouraging situation in which the problem is to determine which of four airlines will serve Montana communities.

A series of hearings was announced by the Civil Aeronautics Board including two hearings to cover airline serve in large populated areas identified as the Seven States Area Case, Docket No. 7454, and the Pacific Northwest Area Case, Docket No. 4192. The center of interest in these two areas includes the trade zones of the Minneapolis-St. Paul area and the Portland-Seattle area.

The Montana Aeronautics Commission scheduled meetings in Montana cities to outline our airline needs, with the cities sending the commission attorney to Washington to a prehearing conference and to present recommendations of a specific request for a hearing to cover airline service in Montana.

The Civil Aeronautics Board scheduled and identified a hearing to be known as the Montana Local Service Case, Docket No. 6293, and to be held in Great Falls, Montana on April 8, 1957. The Civil Aeronautics Board examiner will hear evidence presented by representatives of many Montana communities and representatives of four airlines which are interested in serving Montana and which include Northwest Airlines, Western Airlines, Frontier Airlines, and West Coast Airlines.

It is considered by the Montana Aeronautics Commission that any one of these four airlines can efficiently serve Montana cities however, it is recognized that the Civil Aeronautics Board is following a policy of operating at two levels of airline service which includes trunk airline service to terminal points in larger communities and local airline service to serve between the various cities within the state.

Montana should have a united support of all communities to properly justify the development of additional airline service. We have a state of large area and sparse population and in comparing justification of airline service with high density populated areas we will need the united support of all Montana communities to present our service justification to the Civil Aeronautics Board.

V.
FACILITIES

The office of the Montana Aeronautics Commission is located at 43 West Sixth Avenue, Helena, Montana, address P. O. Box 1698, telephone Hickory 2-3260, extensions 281 and 282. A field office and storage facilities are located on the Helena airport.

Equipment and supplies include one Cessna 180 airplane, one Ford Station Wagon; air marking and search and rescue equipment and supplies.

VI.
AGRICULTURAL AVIATION

Agricultural flying operations in Montana for 1956 exceeded any previous year. There were 268 agricultural pilots and 246 agricultural aircraft registered with the office of the commission. Public liability and property damage insurance is required for commercial crop spraying aircraft.

The largest operation in agricultural flying during the year involved extensive timber spraying operations financed primarily by the U. S. Forest Service. Areas included were the Madison River drainage, the headwaters of the Shield River and the Smith River, the Dillon area, and the Bitterroot mountains. Approximately 900,000 acres were sprayed for the control of the spruce budworm. It is believed that the Forest Service will again have timber spraying operations during the coming year.

Extensive grasshopper control operations were carried out by local flight operators who demonstrated that they could obtain practical and economical control working with ranchers and farmers. The State Department of Entomology has recommended that this same method be used with the help of federal funds in the control of extensive grasshopper infestations which are expected to develop during the coming year.

VII.
MONTANA AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Airport development in Montana is carried on in a manner similiar to the federal aid highway program. Projects initiated or being developed within the past year by Montana cities and counties on a matching basis with federal funds are listed as follows:

BILLINGS - Runway and administration building

GREAT FALLS - Runway extension, taxiway, apron, lighting and addition to administration building

MISSOULA - Repair and extension of runway

PLENTYWOOD - Runway development

LIBBY - New airport development in conjunction with U. S. Forest Service.

LAUREL - Land acquisition and runway development

JORDAN - Runway development

VIII.
COMMENT

The activities of the Montana Aeronautics Commission, during the past year, have not been as extensive as they have been in past years due to increased administrative costs which have used a greater portion of the limited income of this department.

IX.
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balances		Actual 1955-1956
State Aviation Fund		$ 3,021.62
Collections		38,460.10
	Total Available	$ 41,481.72
Expenditures		33,855.50
	Balance & Revisions	7,626.66